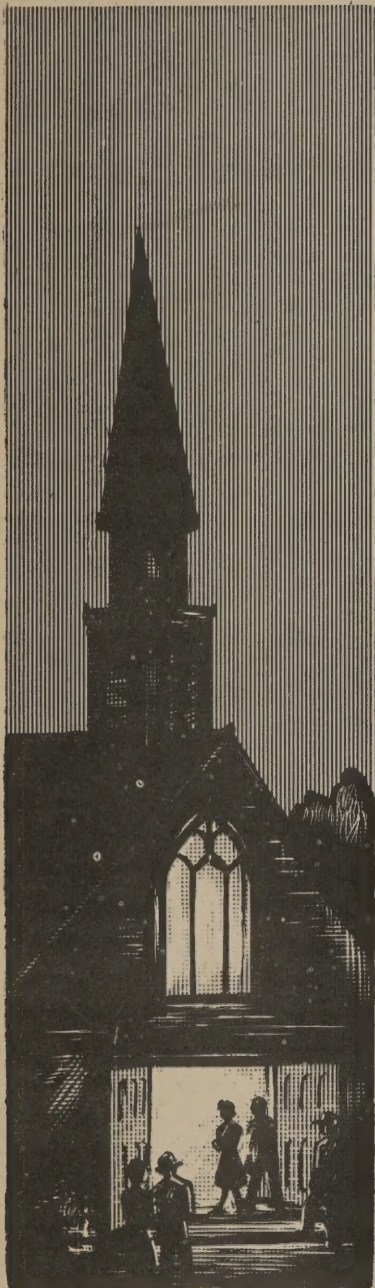


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OBSERVANCE OF

Rural Life Sunday

BY 4-H CLUBS
1948

THEME

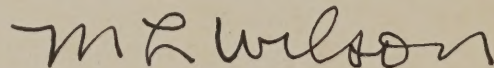
*Creating better homes today for
a more responsible citizenship
tomorrow*

EXTENSION SERVICE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and
STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, cooperating

FOREWORD

The pattern of democracy in the United States is rooted deeply in religious values. So it appears most fitting that 4-H Club members, whose goal is to build a better home life and better citizenship for the world of tomorrow, should join in attending church on National 4-H Club Sunday.

I know that most 4-H Club members worship regularly at the church of their own or of their parents' choice. National 4-H Club Sunday affords the opportunity for these members to set a good example for other youth. It affords an opportunity for these members to demonstrate that each 4-H member recognizes the blessings our Maker has bestowed on us. The privileges and freedoms we enjoy in this true democracy of ours are likely to be with us only so long as we have faith in the Divine and courage to defend this faith.



M. L. Wilson
Director of Extension Work

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY BY 4-H CLUBS

May 2, 1948

Gertrude L. Warren
Organization of 4-H Club Work

THEME: CREATING BETTER HOMES TODAY FOR A MORE
RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP TOMORROW

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THE COUNTRY CHURCH

In some great day
The country church
Will find its voice
And it will say:

I stand in the fields
Where the wide earth yields
Her bounties of fruit and of grain,
Where the furrows turn
Till the plowshares burn
As they come round and round again;
Where the workers pray
With their tools all day
In sunshine and shadow and rain.

And I bid them tell
Of the crops they sell
And speak of the work they have done;
I speed ev'ry man
In his hope and plan
And follow his day with the sun;
And grasses and trees
The birds and the bees
I know and I feel ev'ry one.

And out of it all
As the seasons fall
I build my great temple alway:
I point to the skies,
But my footstone lies
In commonplace work of the day;
For I preach the worth
Of the native earth,--
To love and to work is to pray.

--Liberty Hyde Bailey

ORIGIN OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

4-H Club Sunday, the fifth Sunday after Easter, is closely linked with Rogation Days, celebrated for centuries in the Christian Church during the three days preceding Ascension Day. Originally, they had several emphases, but gradually that of prayer for God's blessing upon the fruits of the earth predominated. Rogation Days were first observed by St. Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne, in Gaul, sometime prior to 475 A.D. In 511 A.D., they were ordered observed throughout France; and in 747 A.D. were established in England by Church action. Alfred the Great held them in deep reverence and included them among the most important of holy days. They were established in Rome by Leo III about the end of the eighth century.

The idea is of far more ancient origin, however. In the earliest days of Egypt, the ceremony of blessing the land and the seed at the time of planting, was widely observed. Hardly an ancient people but sought the favor of the gods at that time.

When therefore, 4-H members today assemble to worship God on 4-H Club Sunday, they join a long succession which comes out of the dim past of history. They join with those of many generations in seeking the blessing of God upon the land, the seed, the cultivation of the earth, and the enrichment of home and community life.

It should be noted that 4-H Club Sunday is an outgrowth of Rural Life Sunday, which was first observed in 1929 at the suggestion of the International Association of Agricultural Missions, and soon adopted by the Home Missions Council of North America, by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and by numerous other religious bodies.

"ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE"

In the observance of 4-H Club Sunday, 4-H members are always encouraged to attend the church of their own choice. At that time, in keeping with the Heart H, their attention can well be directed to the development of their own spiritual lives and thus help them "to stand firm under the pressures of life" (Children's Charter). Today, more than ever before, people of all lands are in need of that spiritual development which will enable them, if put to the test, to meet triumphantly the threatening crises that seem to overhang the world today.

It is encouraging to note that many church organizations are increasingly cooperating with leaders of the 4-H Clubs to the end that more young people may be reached and guided to identify themselves with those institutions, such as the church and the school, which stand for the high ideals that should govern the activities of every community.

BETTER HOMES-
MORE RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP-THROUGH 4-H CLUB WORK
INFORMATION FOR THE CLERGY

Since its inception nearly two decades ago, the observance of 4-H Club Sunday has become an increasingly significant part of the 4-H Club program in a large number of States. This year, the theme, "Creating better homes today for a more responsible citizenship tomorrow," was given its first impetus during the observance of National 4-H Club Week, and will continue to be the theme for all 4-H events during 1948 in accordance with the action taken by the State club leaders. However, the spiritual implications of this theme will receive special emphasis in all programs planned in relation to the observance of 4-H Club Sunday, in addition to that in keeping with the traditional spiritual significance of planting time. Many phases of the 4-H Club program may be used to show how the practical work in farming, homemaking, and community improvement makes for the spiritual development of the individual, the home, and the community.

Relative to work being done toward the spiritual improvement of the home, a long list of 4-H activities might be cited which lead, in turn, to more responsible citizenship. "Begin your citizenship in the home" is a real message that can well be impressed upon every 4-H Club member. The quotations included in this manual are rich in suggestions for talks on 4-H Club Sunday which may inspire many a 4-H member to do more to enrich his own home life and to become a more responsible citizen.

For those unfamiliar with the 4-H program, it may be of interest to know that 4-H Club work emphasizes the home. The practical work of the club--the demonstration--usually is done on the home farm or in the home of the club members. Often, club meetings are held in the home. This home work of the club member is usually of more importance than is commonly appreciated. There, at home with a task in keeping with his ability, the club member has the best opportunity for growth and development. By trying new ways of doing practical things in his own home environment and checking results, many improvements are made in well-established home-and-farm practices that win the approval of the entire family group and thus make for family solidarity.

Moreover, the work of 4-H Club members in the home develops common experiences that make the work of the club group more worthwhile, and any outstanding accomplishment in relation to the home is apt to bring a type of group approval not otherwise attained. The club member who has the active interest and cooperation of parents naturally accomplishes more. This larger accomplishment not only helps to develop more capable young people at home but also sets standards for other members of the club. Club work may fail largely in its purpose when parents are not actively interested and cooperative.

As an integral part of the entire extension program in homemaking, a club member may participate in various home activities in keeping with felt needs or interests. For example, a club member may grow a garden in keeping with the dietary needs of the family and can the surplus garden products; plan, prepare, and serve attractive and healthful meals; make or select for self and other members of the family, attractive, suitable clothing in keeping with the family budget; keep personal accounts; assume a share of responsibility for daily household tasks; at times, take over the management of the home when mother is on a vacation at the State college or summer camp; render more comfortable and satisfying the home itself; add to the attractiveness and beauty of the exterior of the home by planting native shrubs and trees; or help mother in the intelligent care of younger brothers and sisters.

One of the 10 guideposts relative to the 4-H Club program is "Creating better homes for better living."

The ideals of home life are highlighted in the 4-H song "Dreaming".

An effort by 4-H leaders is being increasingly made to contact parents, explain the values of the 4-H Club program to them, invite them to club meetings and various 4-H events and, if possible, enlist their active participation in some phase of the program. Many parents act as local leaders. In addition, parents of older members often enter into practical partnerships with them relative to some enterprise on the farm or in the home.

An effort by 4-H leaders is being increasingly made to contact parents, explain the values of the 4-H Club program to them, invite them to club meetings and various 4-H events and, if possible, enlist their active participation in some phase of the program. Many parents act as local leaders. In addition, parents of older members often enter into practical partnerships with them relative to some enterprise on the farm or in the home.

An effort is also being made to create a greater awareness regarding the need of a better understanding of the factors that make for happy family life relationships. Such factors include an understanding of the impact of 4-H Club work on the home at the present time and the techniques that should be followed in order to develop more lasting family satisfactions and greater solidarity. Thereby, young people throughout this country may be enabled to become responsible citizens of their own communities, unafraid to stand for the right and, if need be, to fight for the right.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

"Prayer is the most powerful force in the world today. It lifts the souls of men and quickens their spirits. It builds faith and a fearlessness to do what is believed to be right. It makes men strong. It is the forerunner of miraculous achievement. Without it, no nation can survive."

THOUGHTS IN RELATION TO THE THEME FOR USE IN
OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

January 29, 1948

TO THE 4-H CLUBS OF THE UNITED STATES:

You are to be congratulated on the theme, "Creating better homes today for a more responsible citizenship tomorrow." It is a message that is deep-rooted in the American way of life.

In the family circle we learn by daily experience that liberty carries with it some essential obligations that each of us must respect if we are to insure harmonious family living. In a highly scientific age like ours, this concept is one that should extend beyond the family into the larger community and the human society of which all of us are a part. I hope you will succeed in your goal of reaching every rural boy and girl with your message.

--Harry S. Truman

OUR HOMES --
IN GOD'S COUNTRY

God's Country! Where stars march, proud, across skies unhazed by smoke and dust; where men say what they think, work hard, and know their neighbors by first names; where beauty of soul is women's crown, and children can play in all God's out-of-doors!

God's Country gives men drama that is ever new, yet old: the changing seasons; sun cloud-fringed with gold, and nestlings fed and gone; the sower, sowing seed; the plowman and his horses plodding up across a hill--eternal motion pictures of man's life upon the earth.

--Phillip N. Pitcher

THE IDEAL HOME
OUR RESPONSIBILITY

"And what does an ideal home consist of? It consists of a father and mother and children. It is only a partial home unless there are children in it. To raise children may mean 20 years of self-denial, of care, of confusion, of patience and struggle; but children in the home, if given the right training, may be the largest contribution we will ever make to the world. It is not a real home unless you find within it tolerance, sympathy, respect, and love--respect and love of parents for each other and for the children, and love and respect of children for their parents.

"The home with understanding parents in it is the greatest teaching institution in the world - greater than the schools, greater than the church; and the place where much of the teaching is done is at the table, where parents and children meet three times a day. It is at the table where parents express themselves on the happenings of the day, the news of the neighborhood, the sermon they heard on Sunday and its quality. There, at the table; the attitude of the parents toward religion, politics, common honesty, morality are breathed in by children and made part of their character and life. There, at the table, parents and children express themselves freely and say what comes from the heart. How important that parents have right thinking in their hearts.

"We in 4-H Club work are helping to train the youth who will make the future parents of rural America and much of urban America as well. It is no mean job we leaders are engaged in. We are helping to train the youth who will in large degree determine the comity, the cooperativeness, and the peace of the world. We are not living up to our responsibility if we forget that training in our teaching of corn growing, gardening, and calf raising. We, in all instructions and actions, are helping to build character in our club members and a desire for noble homes of their own."

--C. B. Smith

DESIRABLE VALUES-THE RURAL HOME

1. The development of a Christian philosophy of life to affect every relationship of living.
2. The realization of the relationship of families to each other. No family alone can be truly Christian where no motive of service exists.
3. Mother-father relationships must be seen as a vital source of teaching. Children learn much from the attitudes of parents toward each other.
4. Personal and family prayer are important elements in every Christian home.
5. Good pictures and books are valuable as guides and interpreters of religion.
6. An appreciation of rural life is basic since religion grows best in this soil.
7. A sense of pride in the home together with an understanding of the rich values of rural life are great aids to Christian cultivation.

--T. T. Swearingen

4-H CLUB WORK - ITS GREATEST OPPORTUNITY

"4-H Club work--to fulfill its greatest opportunity--must reach into the home life of the members. What they do in their meetings, what they learn in their camps, should be reflected in their everyday home lives. There are the little courtesies, the new, better ways of doing their work jobs, the fine cooperative spirit, the joyful, wholesome recreation--all these should be a part of home life.

"As leaders we shall be rated largely by the effects which 4-H Club work has on the home life of our boys and girls. Let us build it firmly into their every activity--for in so doing we will be developing a more responsible citizenship for the world of tomorrow."

--I. B. Boggs

4-H MESSAGE BEGIN YOUR CITIZENSHIP IN THE HOME

"The foundations of your whole life--physical, emotional, and mental--are laid in the home. The well-ordered home based on love, mutual helpfulness, and intelligent cooperation is the highest achievement of mankind. It is the cradle of civilization. By living and working together in the home we acquire the virtues, habits, and skills needed for the highest success in life. By doing your part in the tasks about the home; by helping to keep it clean, orderly, and beautiful; by seeking to make it a peaceful, friendly, and happy place; you learn to think, to plan, and to work with others in ways that will help you to perform well your part in any community. Exalt, enrich, and beautify your home. It is the foundation of your life and happiness; the first school of citizenship and democracy."

--Joy Elmer Morgan

THE HOME A CATHEDRAL OF FAITH

"To meet the issues of today, the home must be built like the Gothic cathedrals of old. In their building was utilized the principle of balanced thrusts whereby the force from the weight of the roof was matched by the strength of great flying buttresses. So the home by an inner spiritual influence must be able to match the destructive forces from without whether born of selfishness or greed.

"Homes which endure today have spiritual qualities such as the regard for truth, the spirit of comradeship, the practice of co-operation, the discipline of forbearance, and, above all, the grace of forgiveness for one another's shortcomings."

--E. O. Clark

PARTICIPATION OF 4-H CLUBS IN THE OBSERVANCE OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

WHAT IT DOES

Enables 4-H members to think together about home, community and world events in spiritual terms by means of some especially chosen theme such as "Creating better homes today for a more responsible citizenship tomorrow."

Encourages 4-H members to identify themselves with those institutions that stand for the high ideals of a community, such as the church, the school, and other social organizations that lead to the full, all-round development of all those who participate.

Develops in 4-H members a better understanding of the inevitable relationship that people of the soil have with God.

Develops a deeper appreciation of the manifold values of rural life.

Provides 4-H members an opportunity to participate in a service that develops the Heart H.

Emphasizes and recognizes the spiritual value and character building qualities of 4-H Club work.

Acquaints 4-H members with other character-building agencies.

Gives 4-H members an opportunity to cooperate with other community groups.

Helps 4-H members to realize their own responsibilities to the church of their choice.

SUGGESTIVE WAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH SERVICES BY 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

MAKE CAREFUL PLANS

Each county will determine how 4-H Club Sunday will be observed. This usually is done by the county 4-H Club council, by a special committee of leaders and sponsors, or by a county extension agent.

Those in charge will get in touch as soon as possible with ministers, priests, and Sunday school superintendents and make mutual arrangements, satisfactory to all, for conducting the services. This should be done well in advance of the Sunday selected for the observance of this special day. The following suggestive procedures are listed for consideration:

Plan county-wide observance of 4-H Club Sunday, if possible.

If May 2 proves inconvenient, select a Sunday in May or June when there is the least conflict with other events.

Make careful plans to suit local conditions.

Explain fully the meaning of 4-H Club Sunday and plans for the day to all local ministers, priests, or other church authorities well in advance and try to adjust plans to their convenience.

Furnish information about 4-H Club work to ministers for inclusion in the sermon. Give them a copy of this manual.

Highlight what 4-H Clubs are doing in improving their own communities and in sharing with the destitute people of other lands.

Encourage 4-H members of each church of the community to discuss plans for 4-H participation in the observance of 4-H Club Sunday with the minister or priest of the church of their choice.

Make arrangements for a combined service in a central church or hall, provided all churches of the community are in the habit of combining for special services.

Enlist the help of 4-H members in decorating the church with plants and flowers.

Have a 4-H Club committee, perhaps in uniform if it seems appropriate, to welcome people at the door of the church, if approved by church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to assist in ushering or in taking up the morning offering, if it meets with the approval of church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to invite parents, neighbors, and friends to attend.

If there is only one church in the community and church authorities approve, suggest to 4-H members that they might attend church as a group and wear membership pins, uniforms, or some special emblem made for the occasion.

As a part of a program, dramatize certain features that highlight the 1948 theme such as the 4-H song "Dreaming".

Other ways of 4-H participation may include singing in the choir; giving talks; reading poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, scriptures; or contributing special musical numbers.

Other forms of observance may include a 4-H sunrise or 4-H sunset service in some scenic setting; a 10- to 15-minute church period given over to the 4-H community club for special contributions of members; a similar period during the Sunday school hour; or a special service featuring the plow in keeping with the ancient English ceremony. On such occasions, appropriate hymns may be used -- hymns that are great and have done much to develop the spiritual ideals and stamina of this Nation. Young people might well be encouraged to become familiar with such hymns and to appreciate their worth and significance.

Encourage 4-H members to do something special to improve the home community or to help those in need. A special contribution to those needy people in other parts of the world would be most appropriate. (See page 14.)

THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

Reminders to 4-H Club Members in the
Observance of 4-H Club Sunday

The first act of the Pilgrim Fathers after landing on Plymouth Rock in 1620 was thanksgiving and prayer.

Tablets mark the pews rented and occupied by George Washington in churches in Virginia and New York.

"In God We Trust" is engraved on the coins of this Nation.

The national Congress and the State legislatures open their sessions with prayer.

The official documents of American history ... affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious Nation.

-- United States Supreme Court
decision.

"A churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on rapid downgrade."

--Theodore Roosevelt.

"The older I grow, the more certain I am that morality is dependent upon the spread of religious conviction in the government and civilization of this country."

--William Howard Taft.

"Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually."

--Woodrow Wilson.

"The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions."

--Calvin Coolidge.

"Our churches and religious institutions are indispensable stabilizing factors in our civilization."

--Herbert Hoover.

"The churches are the greatest influence in this world of ours to overcome the present tendency toward greed."

--Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN 4-H CLUB WORK

4-H CLUB PLEDGE

I pledge

My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service, and
My health to better living,
For my club, my community, and my country.

4-H CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE

We individually and collectively, pledge our efforts from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation.

We will never allow tyranny and injustice to become enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to our duties as citizens.

We will strive for intellectual honesty and exercise it through our power of franchise. We will obey the laws of our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of public duty among our fellow men.

We will strive for individual improvement and for social betterment. We will devote our talents to the enrichment of our homes and our communities in relation to their material, social, and spiritual needs.

We will endeavor to transmit this Nation to posterity not merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Saviour for whose Kingdom it stands, one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love."

MY 4-H HOME

"The 4-H Dreaming Song"

My home must have a high tree above its open gate,
My home must have a garden where little dreamings wait;
My home must have a wide view of fields and meadow fair,
Of distant hill, of open sky, with sunlight everywhere.

My home must have a friendship with every happy thing,
My home must offer comfort for any sorrowing;
And every heart that enters shall hear its music there,
And find some simple beauty that every life may share.

My home must have its mother, may I grow sweet and wise,
My home must have its father with honor in his eyes;
My home must have its children, God grant the parents grace,
To keep our home, through all the years, a kindly, happy place.

LET US BE MINDFUL OF THE DISTRESSED HOMES ACROSS THE SEAS

"We can best fulfill our duty by doing all that is humanly possible to alleviate some of the suffering in the bodies and minds of those who are living reminders of the high price which national independence and personal freedom exact. Today, and in the days to come, let us help -- with words, but even more with deeds -- the blind and broken in our midst. And let that spirit of good will among men go forth to those who, like our wounded sons, are still in pain."

--Herbert H. Lehman

A TIMELY 4-H GOOD-NEIGHBOR PLEDGE

In order to be a better world neighbor and friend to all, I, as a 4-H member will:

1. Try to learn more about the home of those in distress everywhere.
2. Help to relieve the hunger and suffering in these homes.
3. Conserve food, avoid waste, produce more.
4. Send friendly letters of cheer to those abroad who are in need.
5. Make friends with any foreign-born who have come to our own community.
6. Seek more of the actual facts about world affairs that are of concern to our nation.
7. Encourage good-will toward the other nations of the world.

A TIMELY 4-H PRAYER

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all thy blessings; help us to be more worthy members in our own homes and more responsible citizens in our communities; make us mindful of those in need; give us strength to do our full part; relieve the suffering of the world; and grant peace in our time. Amen

A THREE - 2 GOOD-NEIGHBOR PRINCIPLE

It seems to be a better world neighbor and friend to all, I, as
a 4-2 neighbor will:

1. Try to learn more about the lives of those in
distress everywhere.
2. Try to relieve the hunger and suffering in
those lands.
3. Conserve food, water, and energy.
4. Send friendly letters of cheer to those abroad
who are in need.
5. Make friends with my foreign-born who have
come to our own country.
6. Look over of the actual facts about world affairs
that are of concern to our nation.
7. Encourage good-will toward the other nations of
the world.

A THREE - 2 PRINCIPLE

Give us good-will, our neighbor, for all the blessings
help us to be more worthy members in our own home and more
responsible citizens in our community; may we stand by
those in need; give us strength to do our full part;
relieve the suffering of the world; and great peace to our
time, Amen.

